

HONORING LARRY A. MATOS

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambitious and hard-working businessman, Mr. Larry A. Matos. Larry was born and raised in California's Central Valley, and was working hard on his parent's dairy at a young age. While growing up, Larry attended Turlock High School, and led his Future Farmers of America team to a 6th place finish at a national dairy competition. After graduating Turlock High School in 1992, he quickly received his Real Estate license at the age of 18.

In 1994, Larry was approached by Mr. John Melo to purchase a Century 21 Real Estate office. Always ready for a new challenge, Larry and Mr. Melo formed a business partnership, and turned a three-man office into eleven office locations in four counties, four businesses, and over three hundred employees and realtors. Currently, Larry is the President/Broker of Century 21 M&M and Associates. Not only is Larry dedicated to his business ventures, but to the Real Estate industry as well. He has served as a local Board of Director for the Central Valley Association of Realtors. This past year, Larry had the distinct opportunity to serve his fellow colleagues as President of the Central Valley Association of Realtors. He was one of the youngest to ever hold that position.

If not working hard with his business investments, Larry can be found spending time on his family's dairy, and being with his friends and relatives. He also dedicates his time to the community by serving on the Holiday Can Tree, and sponsoring a number of charitable events throughout the year. Mr. Speaker, Larry is a role model for our youth in the Central Valley. His positive attitude and work ethic have helped him achieve the American Dream. It is my honor to recognize him for his achievements, and to call him my friend.

LIFE OF MAJ. GEN. GEORGE RUHLEN

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Maj. Gen. George Ruhlen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen loved this country and lived a life of service protecting the freedoms we hold dear. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen was a graduate of the United States Military Academy and completed regular courses at the Field Artillery School, the Army War College and the National War College. He was a great patriot and served this country well, commanding the Third Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Armored Division during World War II. His battalion participated in the defense of Luxembourg, Bastogne, and the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen's actions in the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge were of extreme significance, helping to hasten the end of the war in Europe. This historic capture allowed over 25,000 American soldiers, tanks, artillery and

trucks to cross the bridge safely. In addition, Maj. Gen. Ruhlen served with honor in overseas postings in Japan, Taiwan and Pakistan. He went on to serve as Commander of the 1st Armored Division, Deputy Commanding General, Fourth U.S. Army and Commanding General, Fort Sam Houston. Maj. Gen. Ruhlen received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action during the Battle of the Bulge. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit and the Belgian, French and Luxembourg Croix de Guerre. His leadership and valor were an inspiration to those who knew him. He was truly a great American.

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR  
SERGEANT PIERSON**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Sergeant Tom Pierson.

Sergeant Pierson served our country during the Vietnam War in the United States Marine Corps. He received the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Sergeant Pierson is also a recipient of the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Sergeant Pierson, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

RECOGNIZING THE OWEN J. ROBERTS  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team on their victory in the 2003 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class AAA State Championship game on November 15, 2003.

The Owen J. Roberts Wildcats set a school record for victories in a season on their way to capturing the school's first state championship. In the seven year history of the program, all under the guidance of Coach Joe Margusity, the Wildcats have compiled an amazing 138-31-6 record. The team allowed only 11 goals in 28 games this season, which was enough to earn them gold medals by shutting out Butler High School, 1-0, in the championship game at Hersheypark Stadium.

Led by Head Coach Joe Margusity, and assistant coaches Josh Hoyt, Joe Baccille, and

Chris Strango; the members of this championship team include Laura Ginnona, Becky Lesh, Brittany Bench, Julia Cupp, Jen Michener, Jess Carbo, Anna Bevan, Brooke Dotterer, Kristen Kaufman, Kim Roncase, Beth Stephens, Heather Manorak, Kristi Moltz, Kate Moltz, Ashley Nespor, Amber Cumins, Gayle Exley, Amber Hawkins, Rachel Michener, Jillian Morgan, Kristine Preski and Megan Levengood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Owen J. Roberts High School Girls Soccer Team, the 2003 PIAA Class AAA State Champions.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. MICHAEL'S  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church located in Pueblo, Colorado. St. Michael's recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and it is my honor to rise and recognize the contributions that this church has made to the Pueblo community.

St. Michael's was founded by a number of Pueblo's ethnic Greek families in the early 1900s. Over time, the church has been a wonderful place of worship for many Puebloans. The creation of a place of worship speaks to the very essence of what our country was founded on. As we celebrate St. Michael's 100 years of existence, it is important to call attention to the fact that the American Values which led to the church's existence continue to this day.

The 100th anniversary of St. Michael's falls at a time of great renewal and triumph for the church. Over the last five years, the church has been undergoing significant renovation under the guidance of its devoted pastor, The Reverend Chris Stanton. The small church is truly a beautiful place of worship.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress and our nation to the St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church. Over the last 100 years, the church has provided a great deal to its parishioners and the community of Pueblo, and it is my honor to call attention to its service here today.

SAFE HOMES: CHILD  
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM**HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, a child abduction is every parent's worst nightmare. Yet all too often, we hear chilling stories of boys and girls taken from their rightful guardians; stolen by strangers or even by members of their family. Today, I want to recognize a program in my district that is working to prevent these awful occurrences.

In Weirton, volunteers have organized an initiative that is called WINK: Watching Its